



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Division of Food and Recreational Safety

March 26, 2020

Additional Information for Essential Businesses Following the 'Safer at Home' Order

On March 24, 2020, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), at the direction of Gov. Tony Evers, issued the [Safer at Home order](#). This order mandates that all nonessential businesses close, and nonessential employees work remotely when possible. The emergency order is in effect until 8 a.m. on Friday, April 24, 2020.

We want to provide some information related to your business operations, and indicate whether there are any special requirements you must meet to operate.

Anyone needing additional clarification can visit the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) website and submit questions: <https://wedc.org/essentialbusiness/>

Essential retail food establishments

Grocery stores, bakeries, pharmacies, farm and produce stands, supermarkets, food banks and food pantries, convenience stores, and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of groceries, canned food, dry goods, frozen foods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supply, fresh meats, fish, poultry, prepared food, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, and any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products). Such establishments must:

- Close all seating intended for consuming food.
- Cease any self-service operations of salad bars, beverage stations and buffets.

- With the exception of grocery stores, these establishments must prohibit customers from self-dispensing all unpackaged food. [See this guidance document for more information.](#)
- Abide by social distancing of at least 6 feet between people.

Essential restaurant establishments

Restaurants must be closed, except as follows:

- Restaurants may remain open for food takeout or delivery service only.
- Customers may enter the establishment only for the purpose of picking up food, ordering or paying.
- No seating may be provided.
- Food and drink may not be consumed on premises, either indoors or outdoors.
- Establishments shall meet social distancing requirements between all individuals when possible.
- Cease any self-service operations of salad bars, beverage stations and buffets.
- Customers are prohibited from self-dispensing any unpackaged food or beverage.
- Alcohol sales must comply with [section 13\(e\) in the full order](#).



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<https://www.datcp.wi.gov>

Essential food processing, agriculture and farming

This includes food processing plants, dairy plants, dairy farms, produce farms, milk distributors, meat establishments, milk and water laboratories, and food warehouses.

Food and beverage manufacturing, production, processing, transportation, and cultivation; farming, livestock, fishing, baking, and other production agriculture, including cultivation, marketing, production, and distribution of animals and goods for consumption; businesses that provide food, shelter, and other necessities of life for animals, including animal shelters, boarding, rescues, kennels, and adopting facilities; farm and agriculture equipment, supplies, and repair services.

Examples of personal licenses issued by the Division of Food and Recreational Safety that would be considered essential include:

- Bulk Milk Weighers and Samplers (Milk Haulers)
- Bulk Milk Tankers
- Milk and Cream Testers
- Cheese and Butter Makers
- Cheese and Butter Graders
- Lab Analysts

Anyone with questions about their business is encouraged to contact the WEDC:

<https://wedc.org/essentialbusiness/>.



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